

MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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February 23, 1979  
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MEMORANDUM FOR:

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM:

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN (Pastor)

SUBJECT:

Evening Report (U)

1. Mexico. Owen chaired a meeting last evening to task different agencies on follow-up activities after the President's trip. I am combining these tasks into a single follow-up memorandum from you to the agencies, and hope to get that to you by tomorrow. In addition, I have met with Joseph Friedkin, Chairman of the U.S. side of the International Boundary and Water Commission, to discuss the agreement by the two Presidents to find a permanent solution to the sanitation problem. He has a specific proposal, but apparently, ETA must clear it. I drafted a short memo from you to the President on this issue, and subsequently called the EPA Administrator's office to ask that they expedite their clearance of the IBWC proposal. (C)

I met with Governor Askew, who will be the Chairman of the President's Commission on Immigration and Refugees, to discuss his trip to Mexico on March 7. The President has decided to defer making any decisions on legislation until after Askew speaks to Lopez Portillo and reports to him. Askew is learning about these issues very quickly, and intends to run a taut Commission, and although he realizes there is no permanent solution to the problem, he intends to try to press for a consensus report. He has spoken to Rodino and Kennedy, and both agreed on the need to postpone the Commission's report until after the 1980 elections. Stu Eisenstat has apparently changed his position on this issue as a result of his trip to Mexico with us last week; he now supports our position of deferring a decision until the Commission issues its report. (C)

Mexico's first political party, PRI, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary soon, and has invited delegates from the Democrat and Republican Party. I spoke to John White about trying to get some high-level delegates to the Anniversary, but White had already asked three Mexican-Americans to represent the Democratic Party. Ambassador Linowitz called and said that Mexican Ambassador Margain had congratulated Linowitz for being appointed the President's coordinator on Mexican affairs. Linowitz wanted to know what this was all about, and I explained that the idea for a coordinator had been discussed at some length in the past, and of course his name had come up, as it has for many other things, but that no final decision had been made about whether there would be such a coordinator. I was surprised to hear that Linowitz would be interested in a temporary job as such a coordinator. (C)

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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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Phil Weiss asked me to take care of a problem which has emerged as a result of the President's agreeing to a proposal that Dolph Brisco, former Governor of Texas, be designated the President's personal representative for agricultural programs in Mexico. Lucey and State oppose the idea, but USDA and John White want it. For reasons which go beyond the comprehension of a city slicker like myself, Brisco is also interested in becoming the President's personal representative for the US-Mexico screwworm program, and State Department's objections do not seem to be too valid. I will try to work this out next week. (C)

Feheuer has asked for another briefing on the President's immigration policy, and I have asked whether it would be possible to put it off until after the President gives the briefing next Wednesday. I called Congressman Wolfe to tell him that we had implemented his recommendation on narcotics in the communique as well as in the private conversations and he was pleased. (C)

Francis Mason, Senior Vice President of Chase Manhattan, stopped by and asked whether US policy on three financial issues to Mexico would change as a result of the President's visit. I told him that the three issues, which are quite specific, were not raised, but I will try to follow up with Treasury. (C)

- Vice President's Trip. I met with Denis Clift and Pete Vaky to discuss additional papers which the Vice President requested for his trip to Venezuela and Brazil. It looks as if there will be many heads of state and foreign ministers at both inaugurations, and we will try to prepare the Vice President for meetings which are likely to occur in the course of events. (C)
- Ecuador. The Ecuadorian Charge Sevilla Borja came in to express great Ecuadorian concern about the increasingly provocative gestures of Peru towards Ecuador as well as towards Chile. He believes that the Peruvian military may be making these gestures for internal political reasons, or perhaps because they have some belligerent intentions. He also said that the Ecuadorian election is on stream and he expects it will be a fair election. (C)
- Human Rights. Spoke with John Spiegel of Christopher's office who informed me that Christopher has decided to continue our policy of abstaining on loans to El Salvador until after we receive the response from President Romero to our demarche. On Argentina, he said that Christopher and Vance have been persuaded by a human rights assessment paper which has been prepared in State, and they are prepared to begin voting "no" on loans to Argentina. I asked whether it would be possible to see such a paper, and informed him of your interest and the President's interest in any decision on Argentina, requesting that they suspend a decision until after we have had an opportunity to review the paper. He agreed to send the paper and to try to get a postponement. (C)

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5. Central America. Had a good talk with Erb and Gert Rosenthal, Director of Mexico City office of ECLA, about the impending crisis in Central America. I am working with Vaky on a PRM on Central America, but State is not anxious for a PRM; they would prefer to do it themselves (C)

6. NAM. State has reworked the paper which I sent them on a suggested approach to the NAM, and our differences are very minor at this point. I made some suggestions, and they will send the final version over shortly. I will then distribute it to staff for discussion at that point (C)

7. France/Brazil. A French official of the CNES told a NASA representative in private that his organization is under strict instructions from senior government levels not to assist the Brazilians in developing rockets with military weapons capability. He said that the French were fully aware that the GOB had obtained significant powder technology from an Italian source, filament winding machinery from German sources and so on. The French, he indicated, would not provide the Brazilians with the necessary technology to enable the GOB to put all the components together for a missile with military capability. (S)

8. Mexico/US/Canada. In response to a question from the floor of the Canadian House of Commons about the possibility of a North American Common Market, the Canadian Minister of Energy replied that Canada would want to be "very chary" about such a proposal because it might be no more than a "disguise for a continental energy policy of a different kind." The question arose when an M.P. read the Reston interview with Lopez Portillo who referred to the possibility of creating a common market of customs union. (U)

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